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DFAS Japan talks money

Fifth annual conference helps bases use year's funds to full potential

By Airman 1st Class Katie Thomas
Editor

In the shadow of a tight fiscal year, Defense Finance and Accounting Service Japan is working to maximize its bases' spending ability.

The organization is holding its fifth annual customer service conference this week to inform finance servicemembers and civilians about this year's fallout money, new policies, and how the Base Realignment And Closure will affect their career field, said Wayne Ingle, director of DFAS Japan.

"We want to pass down information to keep our people informed and provide the best support we can to the warfighters," explained Mr. Ingle. "We want to help commanders spend every last nickel that they have so there is nothing left on the table."

Financial management personnel learn more about how to do this during the conference through a series of briefings and open discussions.

The conference will help them feel more comfortable with the end-of-year process also known as fallout.

These professionals can aid commanders in acquiring additional funding for base projects and services for community members. The main fitness center renovations here were obtained through this process in 2004, Mr. Ingle said.

Servicemembers and civilians will also discuss base-specific concerns, he said.

"We are all about teamwork," he explained. "We have a great deal of responsibility to the people and mission in the Department of Defense. We are responsible for people's paycheck to paying for contracts and more."

The conference is located at Camp Zama, Japan, for Army members; at Yokosuka Naval Station, Japan, for Navy personnel; and here for Airmen.

This is the first year that the conference has been split between three bases. In previous years, it had been held here.

Mr. Ingle said that decentralizing the conference saves the military money in travel costs and increases participation. In 2004, two Army members traveled here for the conference. This year 53 Soldiers are attending the conference because of its decentralized locations, he said.

The decentralization was a suggestion from the previous year.

"We are always open to suggestions on how we can better serve our customers," said Mr. Ingle. "There would be no job for us if we didn't serve them by listening to their needs and concerns."

DFAS Japan services Misawa, Yokota and Kadena Air Bases in Japan, and Kunsan and Osan Air Bases in Korea. It is part of DFAS, the largest accounting agency in the world.

That's a good Herk!



photo by Master Sgt. Maurice Hessel

An Iraqi air force loadmaster watches as Staff Sgt. Charles Hardbarger, 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, gives a C-130 Hercules a pat on the nose prior to take-off for good luck. The flight was the first flight with both pilot and co-pilot from the Iraqi air force. Sergeant Hardbarger is deployed from the 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Operations group commander says sayonara Monday

By 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Monday the 374th Airlift Wing will say goodbye to Col. Carlton Everhart, the 374th Operations Group commander as he leaves to become vice-commander of the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

The change of command will take place at 9 a.m. in Hangar 15.

Colonel Everhart has been the operations group commander since August 8, 2003 and came in with a few goals.

"First, I wanted to empower the commanders in the Operations Group with the ability to complete their mission whenever and however tasked. Each mission is accomplished with Safety in mind, making the right decisions, and with pride," said the colonel.

"Second, I wanted to have an environment in which personnel could develop professionally.

"Third, continue to enhance the training environment of our personnel.

"Last but not least, I wanted the Ops Group to be a driving

force in making Yokota the best wing in the Pacific. We are One Team, One Fight."

During his time here as the operations group commander, Colonel Everhart saw his group make several accomplishments such as expanded participation on the Korean Peninsula and in PACAF exercises. Also, he oversaw the deployment of the operations group to support Operation Unified Assistance in Thailand.

"Also, we trained along side our Japanese host helping them to prepare for deployment to Iraq and we deployed our

first aircrews to the desert in almost 15 years. All this was accomplished without a single mishap. I asked a lot of the group and they never missed a beat. It does not get any better than that," said the colonel.

As with any assignment, Colonel Everhart says his time here had some unforgettable moments.

"There are many memorable moments, but I would have to say three stand out," said the colonel. "Getting to know our host country and making life-long friends. Leading the men and women of the operations

group and watching the wing's many successes"

Colonel Everhart leaves Yokota to go on to Oklahoma but does not rule out the opportunity to return.

"I have had some great assignments in my career and this rates right at the top. I would love the chance to serve the base once again. Yokota is the pearl of the Pacific," said the colonel.

"The mission succeeds because of the dedication of our people and the relationship with our Japanese host. The quality and dedication of the men and women of Yokota is reason to return."

ORI countdown: 260 days

Time-honored tradition



photo by Capt. David Westover

Maj. Donald Davis, 374th Security Forces Squadron commander, pours American whiskey from a canteen that was recovered at the crash site of two U.S. B-29s that collided over Shizuoka City June 18, 1945. This portion of the annual commemoration honors the 23 aircrew members and nearly 2,000 Japanese citizens who died that day. Inset, it is believed that an aircrew member's spirit fused with the canteen at the time of impact, forming an imprint of a hand. Dr. Hiroya Sugano, of Shizuoka City, presides over the ceremony each year.

CFC-O donations aid community

By Julie Mason
Family Support Center

Each year the Yokota community benefits from Combined Federal Campaign contributions generously donated by overseas Airmen, DoD civilians, and their families.

The funding received is used differently each year, but always spent with the same end result in

mind – to improve the lives of base residents.

In this time of waning resources, the contributions received this year are more precious than ever before. Without this funding, many base programs and services would cease to exist.

Unlike past years, the contributions received for 2004 are being used to support a multitude and variety of quality-of-life ini-

tiatives instead of targeting a single high-dollar project. Sharing a "piece of the pie" among base helping agencies will initiate and enhance a wider range of programs and services.

Quality-of-life initiatives approved for CFC funding support this year include Youth Right Start, single-parent and deployed-spouse programs, and local crime prevention programs.

Consumer water report released

The 374th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight here released the annual Consumer Confidence Report for Yokota and Tama Hills Recreational Annex's Drinking Water Program June 2.

It is the result of AFI 48-144, Safe Drinking Water Surveillance Program that requires overseas bases to fully comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, in which all community water systems deliver to their customers a brief annual water quality report.

The findings from the report indicated that the water quality in both locations is excellent.

The report contains information on Yokota and Tama's water system and the sources of water at these locations.

A statement from the Environmental Protection Agency and information about guidelines for contamination levels is also included, which outlines the possible contaminants that can be found in Yokota and Tama's water sources.

The water systems are operated and maintained

by the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron and monitored on a routine basis by the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight.

The quality of the water produced, sample collection, sample results and all other data pertaining to these systems is collected and maintained by the flight.

The Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight constantly monitors the water systems for various contaminants to meet the regulatory requirements.

The water must comply with the Japanese Environmental Governing standards and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The flight must also ensure the system is operating effectively.

The list of contaminants monitored are grouped and assigned a specific sampling frequency.

Complete copies of the report can be obtained at the 374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, the 374th Civil Engineering Squadron's Housing Flight, or the Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight.

(Courtesy of 374th Aerospace Medicine Squadron)

2005 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster unveiled: WASHINGTON (AFPN) – The 2005 POW/MIA

Recognition Day poster was unveiled here June 15 in honor of the sacrifices made by prisoners of war and servicemembers still unaccounted for, spanning World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unveiling was a highlight of the Defense Department's annual government briefings here. More than 270 family members of servicemen still missing in Southeast Asia are gathered for the three-day conclave. The briefings give MIA family members a chance to speak with casualty officers, review their loved one's case file and meet with other families.

By custom, POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed in Pentagon ceremonies on the third Friday of September, this year Sept. 16.

NEWS AROUND THE AIR FORCE & PACAF

For these stories and more, visit Air Force Link at www.af.mil

Kadena aircrew evacuates boy from Saipan: KADENA AIR BASE, Japan (AFPN) – A life-threatening emergency on the island of Saipan prompted a team of Airmen here into action recently.

An aircrew from the 909th Air Refueling Squadron and medics from the 18th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron transported a severely injured 15-month-old boy.

"It was a Friday afternoon when the phone call came to alert us for an aeromedical evacuation mission," said Capt. Jeremy Boyd, mission pilot and aircraft commander from the 909th ARS. "The little child had been run over with injuries to part of his shoulders and head."

A KC-135 Stratotanker took off for Saipan to pick up the child and deliver him to a medical center in Hawaii.

The Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate servicemembers about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DOD official said here June 17.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting servicemembers is what is known as "payday loans," said John Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "A payday loan is essentially a plug -- money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills."

The problem is that such loans are very expensive, he said.

DOD cautions servicemembers against 'loan-shark' lenders: WASHINGTON (AFPN) –

AD

Medical Group doctor earns recognition for work

Major garners praise from DOD, AF, PACAF

By 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Yokota can boast as having the best surgeon in the Pacific Air Forces, the best scientist for clinical research in the Air Force, and the best scientist to be employed by the U.S. government.

All of this comes in one package: Maj. (Doc.) Jose Barrera of the 374th Medical Group.

Major Barrera, chief of ear, nose and throat surgery services,

won the PACAF Surgical Excellence Award for 2004, the Air Force Award for Outstanding Contribution for Clinical Research, and the Arthur S. Flemming Award for Scientific Research.

Major Barrera was heralded as the top federal government scientist at the 56th Annual Flemming Award ceremony for his research on head and neck cancer. He was lauded by General Paul Hester, Pacific Air Forces commander, as “model Wingman” and “benefit-

ing our Airmen, Federal Government, and Civilian communities.”

The Flemming Awards recognize public servants with three to 15 years of experience for their contributions to the federal government.

Major Barrera specializes in the study of molecular genetics of head and neck cancer with patients.

“Basically what I do is play with chromosomes, which contain people’s genetic information,” said

Major Barrera. “I open up the chromosomes to see if there are markings contained in people’s chromosomes that indicate if they are at risk for cancer. The Flemming Award was for the past eight years of cancer research.”

The major won the PACAF Surgical Excellence Award, which covers every kind of surgery. He also won the Air

Force level Award in Outstanding Achievement in Clinical Research, which is given for research benefiting daily patient care.

The doctor sees the full spectrum of head and neck cancers, facial plastic surgery, ear surgery, nose and sinus surgery, and laryngology, the care of the professional voice.



photo by 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh

Maj. (Doc.) Jose Barrera, 374th Medical Group, examines a patient here Tuesday.

Sexual Assault Response program opens door to base

By 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Effective June 14, the Department of Defense activated the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Program worldwide. The program applies to all active duty military members and gives people options when reporting sexual assaults.

“Victims of sexual assaults have two ways to report crimes committed against them,” said 1st Lt. Joseph Green, Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for Yokota. “Restricted and unrestricted. Restricted doesn’t reveal the identities of the people

involved while unrestricted reporting starts an investigation and gets commanders involved as well.”

In addition, restricted reporting doesn’t start an investigation, but the victim receives medical care, counseling and a victim advocate to assist them through the process.

“The victims advocate is there to assist from the moment someone reports an incident to the SARC,” said Lieutenant Green. “The victims advocate knows who to contact for each step of the process.”

“Victims advocates are something we need,” said Lieutenant Green. “Any active duty member or DoD civilian can be a vic-

tims advocate and we are interviewing potential candidates right now.”

Victims advocates are volunteers who must possess the maturity and experience to assist in a very sensitive situation, said Lieutenant Green. Personnel assigned to the military personnel flight, the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, or the Office of the Wing Chaplain are not eligible to serve as victim advocates due to the potential conflict of interest.

Also, as part of this initiative there will be mandatory training for sexual assault prevention.

“The purpose of this training is to in-

crease understanding of the impact of sexual assault on individuals,” said the Lieutenant. “Not only does sexual assault impact the individual it also impacts the unit and the mission”

“We encourage all victims to report crimes immediately to their commander, security forces or OSI,” said Lieutenant Green. “If you have been a victim of a sexual assault and want to take advantage of restricted reporting, you must report the sexual assault to the SARC, the emergency room or your clinic provider.”

To report a sexual assault to the SARC, call 225-4078.

AD

'It's an honor to serve with you'

Commander reflects on service, what it takes to do military duty

By Lt. Col. Richard Lipsey
374th Communications Squadron commander

The senior airman greeted the passing technical sergeant with a cheerful, "Good morning! How are you?"

"Busy," replied the pre-occupied noncommissioned officer who never slowed his stride.

A 40 percent reduction in our armed forces following the Cold War, combined with a four-fold deployment rate has significantly accelerated the operations tempo for the Air Force and Team Yokota.

Budget cuts and never-ending searches for greater efficiency continually pressure each of us to do more with less.

The fat is long gone and we have taken cuts in muscle and bone. I see it in huge READY

taskings that are levied to perform core wing functions. I see it in the tough decisions our wing leadership makes about which of our critical programs will get funded and which will have to wait another year. I see it in the faces of Airmen heading out for another AEF rotation and of families and squadron mates who will keep things running at home while they're gone.

Most of all, I see it in our people who put in countless hours after the duty day is long over to keep our systems running, to house and feed our people, to keep them safe and healthy, and to ensure our airplanes and crews are ready to launch – in short, to accomplish the mission. They do it day in day out, week in week out, without complaint.

They bring to mind a great American, Jeremiah Denton.

Navy Adm. Jeremiah Denton,

Jr., served during the Vietnam War. He was shot down behind enemy lines and was taken as a prisoner of war. He was tortured and kept in solitary confinement for seven and a half years.

At the end of the war he was finally released and put on a plane bound for freedom. The plane full of POWs landed at Clark Field in

the Philippines and as he stepped from the aircraft he spoke these words: "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

Admiral Denton expressed

the same devotion to duty that I see lived out every day by the Samurai and Kensai warriors of Yokota.

Thanks to each of you who, through many hours and countless acts of service, courage, and sacrifice, continue to make ours the finest armed forces in the world. We have all accepted a

noble call to defend freedom.

Take a moment in your busy day to reflect on the significance of that task and of the tremendous privilege we enjoy of serving alongside warriors who represent the

"Thanks to each of you who, through many hours and countless acts of service, courage and sacrifice, make ours the finest armed forces in the world."

Lt. Col. Richard Lipsey
374th Communications Squadron

best America has to offer. Find some time to invest in the life of a fellow Airman.

It's an honor to serve with you.

Chief's Corner

By Chief Master Sgt. Kevin White
374th Security Forces Squadron

When I was a Senior Airman back in 1983 and was given two troops to supervise, I decided I would try my best to make their transition into the Air Force easier than it was for me.

Therefore, I decided to tell my new troops how to achieve their military goals in hopes I could better prepare them for success.

In doing so, I decided to talk to them about quality job performance, self-improvement, community involvement, maintaining a positive attitude, and observing outstanding performers in action. These are key subjects I think Yokota managers and supervisors should impart immediately to new troops.

So, what about quality job performance?

Well, as a worker I knew what my flight manager deemed as important in the work-center, so I passed those standards onto my new subordinates. Our primary goal here is to let subordinates know immediately what is considered outstanding performance and what is not. Now, performing the job well will definitely lead troops to success, but troops should also

take proactive steps to improve themselves.

Supervisors should tell troops why it is important to complete their Career Development Courses and quality control evaluations in a timely manner and to strive for test scores above 96 percent. It is simple: if they aim for the universe, they should definitely fall amongst the stars and be awarded accordingly.

We should also instruct troops to take full advantage of advanced technical training and formal education. The military will train you well, but a college education will enhance your critical thinking skills and your long term opportunities.

Don't let your troops stop there. Instruct them to routinely participate in the community as well. This should include helping out in the unit, helping the base, and helping out the civilian community. Doing this will uplift their neighbors and will have other benefits because leaders are taking notice.

Next, inform your subordinates they should strive to maintain a positive attitude. Even if they have a complaint about an issue, they should strive to come up with a workable solution rather than becoming negative. Also remind them that we make errors, yet it is critical they learn from their

mistakes. It is also beneficial to learn from the mistakes of others. This will help them tremendously.

Finally, instruct your subordinates to observe outstanding performers and benchmark their notable actions. Notice that these stellar people will come from all groups to include officer, senior noncommissioned officers, NCOs, airmen and civilian employees.

In closing, I do believe that if you impart quality performance standards to your subordinates in your initial feedback session, this will better prepare your troops for success and decrease opportunity for substandard performance. As a military member, I always enjoyed having a supervisor who indicated what was important to me up front. All I had to do then was to meet their standards and improve upon them whenever the opportunity arose.

Remember, Gen. George Patton made this statement that kind of goes in line with my message: "You young lieutenants have to realize that your platoon is like a piece of spaghetti. You can't push it. You've got to get out in front and pull it." Telling troops about success upfront is pulling them ahead.



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The deadline for articles, briefs and classifieds is Wednesday the week before publication. For holidays, the deadline is one day earlier.

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DUI Prevention

June 15 – June 21	0
Total DUIs in June	0
Total in 2005	5

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. Use it if you have questions or comments about Yokota, which couldn't be resolved by your chain of command first. When you send an e-mail, please include your name and phone number so you can be reached if more information is needed.

E-mail: Action.lines@yokota.af.mil

Col. Scott Goodwin

374th Airlift Wing commander

So fresh & so clean, clean

Airmen keep mission flying with fuel products

By Master Sgt. Val Gempis
Air Force Print News

The availability of safe and reliable petroleum is vital in safeguarding the lives of military forces in the Pacific Region.

"Sediments in fuel are dangerous," said Staff Sgt. Carmarius Johnson, a fuels laboratory technician from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "It causes fuel filters and injectors to clog. It also can lead to aircraft engine failure."

The mission of his two-person lab, explained Sergeant Johnson, is to ensure that all fuels received, stored and issued here at Yokota strictly adhere to stringent Air Force standards. It has to be clean, he said.

To accomplish this, the technicians perform various fuels tests of facilities, pipelines and fuels dispensing equipment at required intervals daily on base.

Everyday the technicians obtain samples from Liquid Oxygen, JP-8 and also from ground fuels storage tanks.

These tests, Sergeant Johnson said, have to be done regularly, consistently and efficiently to ensure on-specification products is available for the customer.

About five billion gallons of fuels were used by the U.S. military in the late 90's. It was used to fuel aircraft, tanks, heaters, generators and other military vehicles.

No military operation can be undertaken without first considering the availability of dry, clean, serviceable fuel.

"We have to do things here very carefully," said Sergeant Johnson. "It's a very detailed-oriented job."

He said contaminant testing is one of the most critical procedures here. At high altitude, contaminants like water will freeze in an aircraft fuel tank he said. It can lead to engine problems or cause an aircraft to crash.

"Another vital analysis here is flash-point testing," said Mr. Susumu Iwasaki, a Japanese fuels lab technician. This test, he explained, determines the lowest temperature at which fuels will burn. Fuel with a lower-than-prescribed flash point can cause engine and equipment damage. It can also start a fire.

Last year the lab conducted about 1,100 color particle assessment analysis. They also accomplished about 1,000 aeronautical equipment laboratory free water tests, over 700 conductivity analysis and about 500 fuels system icing inhibitor tests.

"Our laboratory technicians protect people and equipment here," said Chief Master Sgt. Michael Bradow, fuels management flight chief. "The quality assurance they do is a major factor not only in flight safety but also for military forces on the ground here."



photo by Master Sgt. Val Gempis

Staff Sgt. Carmarius Johnson, a fuels laboratory technician with the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron, pours fuel inside a glass container during an aircraft sump sample test. The test ensures fuel from the bottom of C-130 Hercules tanks are free of particulates and solid contents. The squadron conducts daily tests of facilities, pipelines and fuels dispensing equipment. Airmen take samples of JP-8, liquid oxygen and from ground fuels storage tanks. They conducted more than 3,000 tests in 2004 to ensure the mission is moving with serviceable fuels.

AD

Off base

War photo exhibition: The Japan Newspaper Museum in Yokohama is hosting this event, which features photos throughout the previous 60 years. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 042-661-2040.

Hana Shobu Festival: More than 200 types of Japanese iris will be in bloom at Shobu Park in Ome City through Thursday. The park is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is a 15-minute walk from the Higashi-Ome Station.

Atsugi Naval Base's Bon Odori open house: The base will open its doors to the Japanese public July 23 from noon to 9 p.m. The open house includes aircraft static displays. No parking will be available during the event. Call 046-778-2664.

On base

Movies

Today – *The Honeymooners*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *A Lot Like Love*, PG-13, 2 p.m.; *Amityville Horror*, R, 7 p.m.; *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m. (adult-only showing)

Sunday – *The Pacifier*, PG, 2 p.m.; *The Honeymooners*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *The Honeymooners*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Amityville Horror*, R, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday – *The Pacifier*, PG, 7 p.m.; *A Lot Like Love*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Closures

The Samurai Self-Help Store is closed July 1 and 2. It will be open Wednesday and Thursday to compensate for the Fourth of July closures.

The Crossroads Shoppette will be closed beginning June 20 for a facility upgrade. The Box Office Video Shoppette will be open 24

hours during the closure. Crossroads will reopen in approximately six weeks.

The Arts and Crafts Center is closed until July 19 for renovations. All classes during the closure will be rescheduled. Call 225-9044.

The child development centers, base library, Tomodachi Lanes and the Enlisted Club's Charlie T's dining will be closed July 4.

Mandatory training

All active duty, Reserve, DoD civilian employees and DoD contractors are required to attend annual counterintelligence awareness training July 5 at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m., or July 12 at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Call 225-9881.

Bazaar

The U.S. Navy Hospital Recreation Committee* is hosting a mini-bazaar July 2 to 4 at the Yokosuka Middle School. Call 243-8648.

Yard inspections

Military family housing is inspected weekly to ensure compliance with Air Force housing standards. Residents should consult 374 AWPAM 32-8 or call 225-9099.

Education

Air Force Spouse Tuition Assistance applications are available beginning Monday for Term I at the Base Training and Education Services flight. Applications must be returned by July 15. Call 225-7337 or visit Bldg. 316.

The University of Oklahoma is offering an on-site graduate program here. Application is ongoing with registration 30 days prior to each class session. Fall semester registration is going on right now. Call 225-3869 or e-mail apyokota@ou.edu.

Volunteers needed

Youth Right Start is looking for volunteers to help welcome new students beginning June 29 through August 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 225-3438 or e-mail lee.andersen@yokota.af.mil.

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is seeking volunteers to help with a children's ministry during its summer Bible study. E-mail cheryl@yk21170.americablejapan.com or call 227-8524.

Story hour

The base library is hosting a children's story hour Monday beginning at 10:30 a.m. Call 225-7490.

Modeling fair

The Family Support Center is hosting a modeling fair July 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants must complete a talent application at the FSC. Call 225-8725.

Meetings

The local Air Force Sergeants Association chapter* is holding a meeting Monday beginning at 8 a.m. in the Enlisted Club. Active duty, Reserve, Guard and retiring members are encouraged to attend. Call 225-5258 or 225-7007.

Auto Skills

The Auto Skills Center offers interior cleaning packages, tint work, air conditioning recharging, waterproofing, maintenance classes and more. Call 225-7623.

The center also offers junking services. The cost is \$80 per vehicle in addition to a recycling fee. It is open Tuesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Blood drive

The Armed Services Blood Bank Center is conducting a blood drive July 19. A sign-up booth will be in the Yokota Community Center lobby July 6 to 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 225-7522.

Reunion

The Air Commando Association and Special Operations Veterans are holding a reunion in Fort Walton Beach from Oct. 7 to 9. Visit <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1/>.

Samurai Warrior



of the Week



Tech. Sgt. Joseph Vazquez

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Vazquez, 374th Security Forces Squadron, is this week's Samurai Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the qualities of sympathy toward all people, sincerity and respect for one's word of honor, absolute loyalty to one's superior, and a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild.

Sergeant Vazquez is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Security Forces Combat Arms section. His ingenuity, pursuit for excellence, and inexhaustible resourcefulness procured a new cost free targeting system and upgraded the fire-arms training simulator saving the unit more than \$95,000. Sergeant Vazquez's commitment to the mission ensured recent AEF deployers fired, qualified and became familiar with their new rifles before departing.

AFN Salutes

American Forces News is looking for award-winning troops and civilian employees to recognize during "AFN Salutes" spots. Send awardee information to AFN.eagle810@yokota.af.mil.

Publicity

Private organizations and base units can advertise their activities by sending an e-mail to afn.publicity@yokota.af.mil or yokota.bulletin@yokota.af.mil.

Chapel events

A junior high youth group is held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. Call 225-7009.

A high school youth group is held every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the building behind the Traditional Chapel. Call 225-7009.

Fussa Presbyterian Church* is forming a Bible study for men who want to study the tenets of Christian faith. E-mail FussaPresbyChurch@yahoo.com.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel

Catholic: Reconciliation, Sundays at 8:45 a.m., 4:45 p.m. and by appointment. Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m., 5 p.m.; Mondays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 6:30 p.m.; Korean service, Sundays at 2 p.m.

Other faiths: Baha'i, Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel

Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

Other faiths: Seventh Day Adventist, second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 9 a.m.; Islam, Fridays at noon. Call 225-7009.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. All POs and PO activities are not endorsed by or affiliated with the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“They go on and on and on. It’s like a guy telling a bad joke for 15 minutes.”

Tom Heinsohn,
on the NBA playoffs

Varsity football: The Yokota Warriors varsity football team is taking on the Misawa Marauders Saturday at 1 p.m. at Naval Air Facility Atsugi. Call 225-8881.

Golf: The Par 3 is hosting midnight golfing tonight for Yokota singles from 9 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$1 per game. The event includes music, food and fun.

Run-a-thon: The Yokota Top 3* is hosting a run-a-thon Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yokota High School track. The group is seeking participants to run laps at the track for donations. The event will help fund the annual senior noncommissioned officer ceremony in late July. E-mail james.martin@yokota.af.mil.

Fencing: Free fencing lessons are offered at the Natatorium Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Equipment is provided.

Baseball: The Yokota Thunder Baseball Club is recruiting players for the 2005 season. E-mail mohrvictor@yahoo.com.

The Yokota Hawks Baseball Club is looking for teammates to fill out its roster. Practices are Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 090-9967-4700.

Sports coverage: Send upcoming sports events information to fuji.flyer@yokota.af.mil or call 225-8833.

Unit teams compete in Ekiden

Military, Japanese civilians run hard in annual relay race

The 21st annual Ekiden Race was held at Yokota Sunday featuring more than 2,500 runners from all over Japan.

In the Group Challenge, the 374th Wing Staff Agencies 1:20:02, second place was the Kensai team (730th Air Mobility Squadron) with a time 1:20:47, third place was 374th Operations Group with a time of 1:27:28, fourth place was the Chiefs Team with a time of 1:33:51 and fifth place was the 374th Mission Support Group 1:41:56. The other SOFA team not part of the group challenge, but they wanted to run was a team from Department of Defense Dependents Schools with a time of 1:57:22.

In the SOFA 5K the top three places went to Col. Scott Goodwin, Lt. Col. Wayne Patterson in second place and Akemi Thompson in third.

The results of the Ekiden Men under 29 were first place Ryo Murayama, second place Yuuji Watanabe and third place went to Nakao Masayuki.

The results of the Ekiden Men ages 30-44 were Komura Taiji finished first with a time of 1:03:23,

second place went to Moriya Kazutoshi with a time of 1:03:58 and third place was Takase Hidehumi with a time of 1:04:04.

In the Men over 45 category Masami Ichikawa was first with a time of 1:11:38, Takagi Kazuya was second and Yoshio Ishizuka was third.

Mitsuyo Hasegawa placed first with a time of 1:23:37 in the Ekiden Women under 29 category. Kanako Huse finished second and Mariko Yamashita finished third.

In the Ekiden women 30-44 category Ryoko Ishihara won with a time of 1:18:37.

Kiyomi Saeki placed second and Chieko Ashizu placed third.

Shiori Yamazaki won the Ekiden women above 45 with a time of 1:29:41. Second place went to Michiko Miyake and Etsuko Nagai placed third.

Takeshi Kikuchi took first in the Ekiden Mixed under 29 with 1:15:00. Second went to Ryuusuke Seto and third to Yuusuke Arai.

In the Ekiden Mixed 30-44 category Sayo Nishikawa finished first with a time of 1:15:40 Yuuka Shiho



photo by Kaori Matsukasa

Japanese civilians compete in the Ekiden race Sunday. More than 2,500 runners from around Japan and from Yokota participated.

finished second and Yoshiya Usui was third.

Seiichi Masuhuchi took the Ekiden Mixed over 45 with a time of 1:19:13. Second place was Teruko Tsuruma and in third place was Hideki Takahiahi.

Takashi Kobayashi with a time

of 15:47 won the Men’s 5K and Koji Makino finished second and Junji Yamazaki took third.

In the 5K Women category Junko Ichikawa won with a time of 18:07. Erika Miwa came in second and Akiko Kobayashi took third.

(Courtesy of Yokota Striders)

Intramural softball rack ‘n’ stack

From the east ...

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Streak	RF	RA	GB
LRS	14	2	.875	Won 8	300	87	—
USFJ/SAF	13	3	.812	Won 1	227	170	1.0
CS	12	4	.750	Won 6	233	136	2.0
MXS A	10	5	.667	Lost-1	201	200	3.5
CES	7	9	.438	Lost-1	159	203	7.0
20 OWS	6	9	.400	Won 1	135	170	7.5
SFS	6	10	.375	Won 1	148	181	8.0
DFAS/CPTS	5	11	.312	Lost-1	191	224	9.0
730 B	4	10	.286	Lost-4	123	203	9.0
MDG	1	14	.067	Lost-7	100	242	12.5
SD	0	1	.000	Lost-1	0	1	6.5

From the west ...

Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Streak	RF	RA	GB
730 A	13	0	1.00	Won 13	211	77	—
AAFES	11	3	.786	Won 1	203	110	2.5
OG	10	4	.714	Won 4	161	166	3.5
CES B	9	6	.600	Won 2	182	173	5.0
MSS/SVS	9	6	.600	Lost-1	166	145	5.0
MXS B	9	7	.562	Won 3	183	221	5.5
AW	6	9	.400	Lost-1	166	172	8.0
DSRJ	4	10	.286	Lost-2	127	173	9.5
DODDS	3	12	.200	Lost-3	121	266	11.0
CONS (ff)	0	17	.000	Lost-17	0	17	15.0

(current as of Tuesday)

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